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historic background, with the political, social, cultural, economic conditions by which the ancient authors were surrounded. Every utterance of theirs bears upon some one of these conditions, and is in turn illustrated by information gathered from monuments, inscriptions, and other available first-hand or second-hand sources. And this leads up to an opinion that I trust you will not deem a paradox but a well considered conviction. Not every teacher of the Classics need be or can be an ideal teacher of ancient history, but no one can be a satisfactory teacher of ancient history who is not a careful student of classical literature. This judgment is, I know, at variance with the prevailing tendency among teachers of history, but I do not believe that the training in the methods of the historic seminary suffices for ancient history, unless the teacher can draw directly from the material incorporated in the Latin and the Greek authors. The peculiar equipment which ancient history requires, says Professor F. F. Abbott in a recent address², differentiates it from the histories of other periods; its formal separation from classical studies is likely to weaken the foundation on which it stands.

It has been a long and varied, though by no means exhaustive, recital of auxiliary interests that I have tried to outline. No teacher, no student can compass all that has been suggested, but from the rich field of subjects related to our central topic, the study of our authors, there must be one or the other realm whose exploration will increase the teacher's joy and satisfaction in his work.

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JULIUS SACHS.

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVENTS IN ITALY

The Editor of THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY has suggested the utility of publishing from time to time in these columns some notes on recent archaeological happenings or finds in Italy. At the present moment of readjustment to peace conditions after the dislocation caused by the War, such notes may be particularly acceptable.

It would be interesting to attempt an answer to the inevitable question as to what has been the effect of the War on classical archaeology in Italy. It will, however, be a decade at least before we are fully aware of the shift in equilibrium which has resulted from the world conflict, and its effect upon the quality and the quantity of work in our own field; it is probable that the War has in many ways acted as a stimulant rather than a deterrent. Of actual material destruction of classical monuments in Italy, I believe there has been very little, and that chiefly limited to Aquileia and Ravenna. It has been one of the many joys of the period following the conclusion of the armistice, to residents in Rome, to see the Ludovisi Throne and the other masterpieces of the Terme Museum restored to their pre-war positions from the places to which they had been removed for safety. Another and a still more exceptional event has been the formation of a temporary museum of refugee equestrian statues in bronze, in Alberti's unfinished courtyard of the Palazzo di Venezia in Rome, itself now finally liberated from Austrian domination: here could be seen in close proximity the best examples

surviving from the ancient world — the four horses of St. Mark's —, and the masterpieces of Donatello and Verrocchio, from Padua and Venice. Never since the close of classical antiquity has Rome contained such a collection of bronze steeds; for not far distant are to be seen the colossal Victor Emmanuel on his charger, and the Marcus Aurelius of the Capitol.

On the profit side of these years of war is to be reckoned the unique underground basilica-like structure near the Porta Maggiore, with its elaborate and charming, as well as deeply religious, stucco decorations; its most characteristic features can now be studied in the *Notizie degli Scavi*, for 1918, pages 30-52; its association with the family of the Statilii and with their devotion to the mysteries (*magicas superstitiones*) which is recorded in Tacitus, *Ann.* 12. 59, appears convincing.

In a recent lecture before the British and American Archaeological Society of Rome, Senator Lanciani spoke of the vicissitudes of the Capitoline Hill in antiquity and later times; of the acquisition, only a very short time ago, of its most sacred portion from the Germans by the Italian government; and of the campaign of excavation soon to be inaugurated, which is to liberate the remains of the Capitoline Temple, and, perhaps, if fortune favors, may yield the precious foundation deposit of Vespasian's rebuilding (Tacitus, *Hist.* 4. 53), as well as other objects of less intrinsic but greater artistic and historical interest.

The rearrangement of the Etruscan Museum of the Vatican is not yet completed, and the second volume of Pinza's important catalogue of its prehistoric antiquities is still to appear: here we feel the delay incident to war conditions. On the other hand, the Museo di Villa Giulia has received accretions of the most valuable character from the excavations at Veii, which are still in progress. These consist of an almost unique series of terracotta figures, fully substantiating all that is to be read in the pages of Pliny as to the achievements of the Etruscans in this material; Ionic Greek influence is especially marked, while at the same time one is conscious that there is a distinctly local flavor to the execution, and that these works possess a peculiar charm of their own; fortunately the color is remarkably well preserved. Their publication is awaited with eagerness.

The systematic excavation of the great sites of Ostia and Pompeii has been proceeding satisfactorily. At the former place, a fairly large force of Austrian prisoners has been employed; operations have been focussed on the quarters near the great temple. When I visited Pompeii in early September, 1918, a reduced gang of old men and boys was steadily continuing to clear the Strada dell' Abbondanza, which to-day, for the freshness with which all sorts of detail have been preserved, is the most remarkable street surviving from antiquity.

We now have some published information (*Rendiconti dei Lincei* for 1918, pages 193-202), as to the campaigns which Gabrici has been conducting at Selinus. The object of his investigations has been the sanctuary of Demeter, or rather Damater, Malophoros, of which he has discovered the votive deposit, including thousands of terracotta votive statuettes and great quantities of pottery, ranging in period from late Protocorinthian, through Corinthian, to black-figured and red-figured Attic ware: in other words, covering practically the whole of the sixth and fifth centuries B. C., down to the destruction of the city by the Carthaginians in the year 409. There is mention of remains of the Propylaea and a temple, and the veteran philologist Domenico Comparetti publishes three lead tablets of *devotiones*.

The last days of the War, and the few months following have witnessed the death of three prominent

²Classical History and its Trend in America, in *The Historical Outlook* 10.121-127 (March, 1919).

archaeologists, whose loss will long be felt: Savignoni, in the field of the history of art; Colini, in prehistoric antiquities; and Rivoira, in architecture. In partial compensation, others of our fellow-workers are returning to their scholarly labors, and in particular I may mention Dr. Thomas Ashby, Director of the British School at Rome, whose invaluable series of papers on the topography of the Campagna, as well as his long-expected monographs on the aqueducts and the Via Appia, may now be expected to proceed after their enforced interruption. The resumption of publication on the part of the *Journal of Roman Studies* is another sign of the times; while in the new era which is opening for our researches it is a cause for sincere gratitude that Professor Pais has been able to continue with greater energy than ever his production of treatises in that field of which he is peculiarly the master, where historical, archaeological, legal, and epigraphical erudition is all brought to bear on the problems of the life and institutions of ancient Italy. In particular, his new volumes of a *Storia Critica di Roma*, with the *Volumi di Complemento*, will be constantly in use by us all for many years to come, quite apart from the question of our acceptance or otherwise of many of the points of view there held.

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY,
Rome, March 15, 1919.

A. V. VAN BUREN.

REVIEW

The Delphic Oracle: Its Early History, Influence, and Fall. By T. Dempsey. Oxford: G. H. Blackwell (1918). Pp. xxiii + 200. \$2.00 net.

The author of this book is a young Irish clergyman, whose M.A. thesis on the Delphic Oracle so interested Professor R. S. Conway, of Manchester, while he was acting as Examiner in Greek to the National University of Ireland, that he encouraged the young man to put his work into book form. In a Preface, Professor Conway warmly commends the thesis for sound Greek scholarship and temperate judgment.

The subject is indeed a fascinating one and the author has done good service in putting into handy form the general facts about the famous oracle. He has aimed especially to discuss the influence of the oracle; he says he knows of no existing monograph in English dealing with this subject. Not that this book contains much that is new. The author frankly acknowledges his debt to Farnell, and any reader of Farnell's great work, *The Cults of the Greek States*, will see that the debt is great. Possibly he has followed Farnell too closely and with too little regard to other literature, but this book will be read with profit by many who would never cull the material for themselves from the third and fourth chapters of Farnell's fourth volume.

The first chapter deals with the pre-Apolline cults at Delphi. It contributes directly to the main subject, because the fact that the Apolline religion at Delphi gathered up in itself the older sanctities of the shrine seems to have enhanced in no small measure the growth and spread of the prestige of the Apolline oracle. So Mr. Dempsey discusses the various deities that had a share in the Delphic oracle at various periods in its history, from Ge, through Themis and Poseidon, to Dionysus and the coming of Apollo.

Apropos of the chthonian character of the oracle, the author gives us a ten-page digression on the oracle at Dodona.

In his list of the modes of divination at Dodona should be included the mantic use of the gong, which, though mentioned chiefly in postclassical authors, and rather uncritically assailed by modern writers, Professor Cook has given reason to believe had no

inconsiderable basis of fact (*Journal of Hellenic Studies* 22.21).

Chapter Two deals with the extent and the causes of the oracle's influence. The causes were the intrinsic excellence of the Apolline religion, the association with the North Greek Hyperboreans, Apollo's literary association with Zeus (not reflected in cult), the scenic impressiveness of the locality, and its central position in Greece. More important than all else was the enthusiastic mantic to which Mr. Dempsey devotes a rather full discussion. He passes to the genuineness of the oracle and the attitude of such men as Socrates, Plato, Plutarch, and Cicero towards it. To explain the prophetic power he falls back on Plutarch's theory of demoniacal possession and compares the incident of Acts 16.16-18. No purely natural explanation is possible.

Chapter Three deals with the political influence of the oracle. Aside from a natural partiality to Sparta, the reputation of the oracle for fairness was well established. It did show itself lamentably weak-kneed at critical times. Politically it tried to be as accommodating as possible, for it was dependent upon the bounty of those who consulted it. Yet in general it opposed tyrants. Its attitude to Cypselus was exceptional. As founder of new colonies it played a very important part and had excellent sources of information.

Chapter Four discusses the influence of the oracle on religion. It propagated especially the cults of Dionysus and the heroes. For three hundred years, down to the time of Alexander, it seems to have determined who should be heroized. Perhaps the Delphic priests believed that such tomb-ritual made for the stability of family life. The one point in which Delphi acted as an evil influence was its sanction of human sacrifice. Mr. Dempsey explains this as owing to religious conservatism and suggests that in this respect Delphi was probably no worse than other oracular centers.

Chapter Five deals with the influence of the oracle upon morality. This was good and became continually better. The oracle promulgated the principle that the essence of sin lay in the will and intent rather than in the act, and that the efficacy of sacrifice consisted not in its financial value, but in its spirit and purpose. Associated as it was with the cult of Dionysus, the oracle adopted an advanced eschatology. Especially significant was its increasingly moral conception of purification.

In discussing the Apolline purification Mr. Dempsey devotes some space to the Stepterion rite and takes a shot at the difficult question why the cabin in imitation of a royal palace was constructed to represent the dwelling of the Python. A noble Delphian boy with a band of noble youths was escorted to this cabin by certain sacred women, Oleae, carrying torches. They set fire to it and fled through the doors of the temple without looking behind them. The boy leader feigned to go into exile and even servitude, but the band, boy and all, were finally purified at Tempe and returned to Delphi in solemn state.

Mr. Dempsey's solution is that the hut originally represented the tent in which Apollo received a preliminary purification. The tent thus contaminated had to be burned. The flight was to escape "the evil influences that might be about". In course of time, the tent was transformed in the popular mind into the dwelling of the Python.

This explanation, I fear, has little to recommend it. In most cases of ritual flight, the perpetrators of some act flee to escape the consequences of that act, viewed as a capital or serious crime, not to escape any "influences that might be about". One thinks of the Poplufugia